

Nursery Rhymes & Fables

The Lion and the Mouse

Nursery Rhymes & Fables

You have been hearing many nursery rhymes over the past several days.

Today, you are going to listen to something a little different, called a fable.

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Say fable.

A fable is a special kind of story. Like many nursery rhymes, fables are fun to listen to, and like nursery rhymes, many fables have been around for hundreds or thousands of years.

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Fables are also very different from nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are just fun to say, but they don't have much of a story.

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In fables, there is always a story and a lesson to be learned, which is called a moral.

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One day a little mouse was scampering along when he came upon a great sleeping lion. At first, the mouse did not know it was a lion. He ran up the lion's tail and jogged along the lion's back. When he realized he was climbing on a lion, the mouse turned to run away. But by that time, it was too late. The lion had woken up.

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The lion was very angry at being **disturbed**. Disturbed means bothered. He gave a ferocious roar and scooped the mouse up with his big paw. "How dare you wake me up!" bellowed the lion. "Don't you know I am the king of beasts?"

What do you think will happen next?

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The lion was just about to swallow the mouse when the tiny animal cried out, "Please, your majesty! I didn't mean to disturb you. If you will let me go, I will be **grateful** to you forever. Grateful means thankful. And if I can, I will do you a **favor** someday. Doing a favor is doing something nice for someone.

Do you think the mouse will do the lion a favor someday?

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



The lion laughed a big laugh. He could not imagine any way in which a tiny mouse could help a big, strong lion like himself. But since the very thought of a mouse helping a lion had made him laugh and had put him in a better mood, he decided to let the mouse go.

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Not long after, the mouse was running along in the jungle when he heard a terrible roaring nearby. He went closer to see what the trouble was, and there he saw the lion. The lion was caught in a hunter's net and could not get out.

What do you think the mouse will do?

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The mouse remembered his promise to the lion, and he began **gnawing** the ropes of the net with his sharp little teeth. *Gnawing means chewing.* He kept gnawing until he had made a hole in the net big enough for the lion to get free.

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



“You laughed when I said I would repay you for letting me go,” said the mouse. “But now you see that even a little mouse can help a lion.”

So, the moral of the story is:
“Little friends may be great friends.”

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Who were the characters in this fable?

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Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative:

Tell about lions in real life. Are they large, strong...? Tell about mice in real life. How large are they compared to lions?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

In the fable, what do the lion and mouse do that real animals cannot do? So, could this story really happen or is it make believe?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

How does the lion feel at the beginning of the story when the mouse is jogging across his back? Why? What does the lion plan to do?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

Why does the lion decide not to swallow the mouse?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential:

How does the mouse help the lion
later?

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Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative:

What is the moral of this fable? Who is the little friend? Why is he a great friend? Who learns the lesson?

Think. Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think. Pair. Share.

Evaluative:



Can you think of a time when you had to count on a friend, particularly a smaller or younger friend, or a little brother or sister? Or was there a time when someone bigger than you counted on you to do something that they were unable to do? Does a person's size affect whether he or she can be a good friend?

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In the fable you heard, “**The lion was very angry at being disturbed.**”

Say the word **disturbed** with me.

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**If something disturbed you, it
bothered you.**

The loud music disturbed my nap.

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Tell about something that has disturbed you. Try to use the word disturbed when you tell about it. **“I was disturbed when...”**

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What's the word we have been
talking about?

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I am going to name some situations. If what I name might disturb you, put your thumb up. If what I name would not disturb you, put your thumb down.

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**A dog barking while you are trying
to sleep**

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**raining cats and dogs while you are
playing outside**

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Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**your mother giving you a piece of
fruit when you're hungry**

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Nursery Rhymes & Fables



Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**someone talking to you while you
are watching TV**

Nursery Rhymes & Fables



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Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**your friends giving you birthday
presents at your party**

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Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



a fly buzzing around your head

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Thumbs Up = Yes

Thumbs Down = No



**someone whistling while you are
drawing a picture**

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Let's review the pictures from the story we read this morning about the Lion and the Mouse and see who can retell the story.

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